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WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A test program protection method comprising the steps of:

translating a source file in which an LSI test
5 program is stored by using a primary key owned by a program provider to thereby create a distribution file and a secondary key; and

authorizing creation of an object file of the test
program only when the distribution file and the secondary
10 key are used.

2. The program protection method according to claim 1, wherein restriction regarding the number of times of compilations is put on the secondary key.

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3. The program protection method according to claim 1, wherein the secondary key is provided with a compilation restriction function by use of a license.

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4. An LSI test method comprising the steps of:
providing a compiler that receives a source file
in which an LSI test program is stored and a scramble
format specific to an LSI to output an enciphered test
pattern for the LSI;

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when the test-subject LSI is set in a test mode,
inputting via a test head the enciphered test pattern into
the LSI

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providing a decoder, in the LSI, which deciphers the enciphered test pattern, to provide the deciphered test pattern to an LSI core; and

5 deciding whether a signal, sent from the LSI, of response to the test pattern is right or wrong based on a test plan.

10 5. The LSI test method according to claim 4, wherein the scramble format is used to recompose an array sequence of the test pattern which is already arrayed time series-wise, by using a specific recomposing rule prepared for each of the LSIs.